



Fall 2011 Root River Weir Summary

The Root River Steelhead Facility (RRSF) was in operation for 8 processing dates during the Fall 2011 fish migration. We were able to capture and process 3,828 fish between October 4 and November 7. Despite low flows in the Root River for most of the fall, the return of fish to the facility was the strongest since 2007. Our egg-take and biological sampling goals were met, and coho health inspections were conducted. The Fall 2011 Root River effort is summarized below.

	Captured	Spawned	Eggs taken	Passed Upstream
Chinook	2,121	0	0	1,798
Coho	1,628	573	528,000*	1,258
Rainbow	18	0	0	18
Brown	61	0	0	57
Totals	3,828	573	528,000	3,131

*An additional 467,000 coho eggs were obtained at the Kewaunee facility for a total of 995,000.

The number of fish captured at RRSF is a subset of the Fall 2011 migration in the Root River. With a later fall processing season, chinooks and steelhead are able to migrate upriver past the facility before we start capturing fish, resulting in lower numbers handled at the facility. In addition, during the coho salmon spawning run, many coho are able to get past the dam by jumping over the stop logs. Therefore, any comparison to past year's processing numbers will not provide a meaningful measure of the overall return of salmonids back to the Root River.

The 3rd Annual Open House was held at RRSF on Saturday, October 8, and over 1,000 people attended the event. DNR staff gave tours of the facility and conducted spawning demonstrations, as well as led discussions on aquatic invasive species. Volunteers from Salmon Unlimited of Wisconsin served as greeters to direct visitors and hand out informational brochures. Salmon Unlimited also provided food, displayed a Lake Michigan fishing boat, and instructed kids on how to cast a fishing rod and tie fishing knots. Additional volunteers from Southeast Wisconsin and Gary Borger Chapters of Trout Unlimited and the Kenosha Sportfishing and Conservation Association demonstrated fly tying and fly casting. Thank you to all those who participated and helped make the day a success! If you were not able to make it to this year's event, check out a video from the first Open House, which can be found online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/lakemich/RootRiverOpenHouse.html>.

Wisconsin DNR would like to acknowledge the support of Salmon Unlimited in keeping the Root River Steelhead Facility operational. Special thanks also go out to Paul Lohman for opening and closing the viewing window at the facility.

We will resume operations at the weir in the spring. Please visit our website at dnr.wi.gov/fish/lakemich for the latest Lake Michigan sport and commercial fishing information.

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